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Note by the Secretary-General

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I. Learning for a Sustainable Future

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Founded in 1991 by a diverse group of youth, educators, business leaders, Government and community members, Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) is a non-profit Canadian charitable organization that was created to integrate education for sustainable development into Canada's educational system. The organization advances, through education, the knowledge, skills, perspectives and practices essential to responsible citizenship. Across Canada, the organization's innovative programmes and partnerships are reshaping educational policy, helping teachers broaden their abilities and bringing classrooms into the community.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council major conferences and other United Nations meetings

A team of LSF Board members and members of Education for Sustainable Development Canada participated in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, held in Bonn, Germany, in 2009. The Board members formed a six-member panel that made a presentation at the United Nations University special event on regional centres of expertise. One of the members represented North America as the co-coordinator of the regional centre of expertise in Saskatchewan.

Regional Centres of Expertise Conference of the Americas 2008: The conference, hosted by the regional centre of expertise of Saskatchewan, took place at the University of Regina in May 2008.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In May 2009, a meeting was held comprising Education for Sustainable Development Canada and members of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO Executive Committee to debrief on the UNESCO World Conference. Presentations were made by three LSF board members.

C. Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals 2, 3 and 7

LSF is Canada's leading charitable non-profit organization providing support to integrate the concepts and principles of sustainable development into education. The organization does this by working with its partners to modify educational policy, school curriculums, teacher education and lifelong learning across Canada. All of its projects work, in some way, towards the goals of the United Nations Decade of

Education for Sustainable Development, as well as Millennium Development Goals 2, 3 and 7 and, less directly, all of the Goals, since the focus is on achieving sustainable living via education. Learning for a Sustainable Future is playing a key role in support of the United Nations Decade. Together with Environment Canada, Manitoba Education, and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, LSF is supporting Canada's commitment to the objectives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe strategy for education for sustainable development and the Vilnius Framework for the implementation of that strategy. This initiative includes the establishment and support for education for sustainable development in Canada, as well as provincial/territorial education for sustainable development working groups and a national council. Learning for a Sustainable Future has spearheaded the creation and support of a series of provincial/territorial education for sustainable development working groups. These groups bring together senior leaders from federal Government regional offices, provincial ministries, faculties of education, school boards, teacher networks and academia, as well as business, community and non-governmental organizations. The purpose of the working groups is to support the regional coordination, development and implementation of education for sustainable development policies, curriculums, resources and teacher education. A pilot working group was established in Manitoba in July 2005 with local partners. In January 2006, six additional provinces/territories were selected to establish such working groups. These included British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario and Saskatchewan. In 2007, Alberta established a working group, while Nunavut had to suspend the activities of its working group, owing to staffing shortages. In 2008, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island were brought onboard to form their working groups. The working groups meet regularly, on average four to six times per year. Over 1,000 stakeholders are engaged directly in working group activities.

ESD Canada: In 2006, LSF, with its partners, established Education for Sustainable Development Canada. That organization brings together a broad range of stakeholders from across Canada to support systemic change towards education for sustainable development within the formal, non-formal and informal educational systems. Made up of representatives from provincial and territorial education for sustainable development working groups, Ministry of Education representatives for jurisdictions that do not yet have Working Groups, and national and international organizations, Education for Sustainable Development Canada addresses cross-cutting issues of education for sustainable development and promotes research, communication and the sharing of best practices.

Actions: (a) engaged over 1,000 stakeholders and leveraged over $3 million to advance education for sustainable development programmes across Canada via education for sustainable development Canada in 2008; (b) reached over 200,000 Canadians through programmes in 2008; (c) created the Resources for Rethinking database (www.r4r.ca), which provides over 500 sustainability resources to teachers. To date, the website has had over 50,000 hits; (d) reached thousands of students through youth forums in two programmes: EcoLeague, an elementary programme (www.ecoleague.ca), and Sustainable Communities, for secondary students; (e) created the Sustainability and Education Academy in 2007 with the Schulich School of Business, the Faculty of Education and the UNESCO Chair in education for sustainable development at York University; (f) supports professional learning networks and delivers professional development workshops to teachers through

school boards, conferences and faculties of education; and (g) in 2008 created Project FLOW (For the Love Of Water), which engages elementary and secondary students in hands-on experiential projects that demonstrate what responsible, active citizenship looks like, preparing them to be stewards of the world's water resources.

Policy work: included supporting the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, as it identifies education for sustainable development as a priority and creates a framework for collaboration among departments of education, and serving on the working group on environmental education for the Ontario Ministry of Education, which published *Shaping Our Schools, Shaping Our Future*.

Education for Sustainable Development Canada activities: communication strategy developed and a website currently being developed; an Education for Sustainable Development Canada research portal has been established; identification of innovative examples of education for sustainable development, practices, leadership and resources; Education for Sustainable Development Canada sustainability policy implemented.

Provincial/territorial working group activities: Sustainability Education in Nova Scotia for Everyone (SENSE) has launched the "ecological footprint" project and the "school facilities greening" programme in schools across Nova Scotia. SENSE has delivered the "natural step" framework to businesses and communities; the Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario, the Ontario Teachers' Federation, the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Natural Resources are facilitating the development and delivery of nine (six English, three French) summer camps to provide Ontario teachers with developmental professional learning on biodiversity and other sustainability issues in support of education for sustainable development; the Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario biodiversity survey: during the fall of 2007, the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network subcommittee of the Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario surveyed providers of biodiversity education and awareness programmes, materials and activities; the Manitoba education for sustainable development working group is partnering with the St. James-Assiniboia School Division and Green Manitoba to support the development and dissemination of an education sustainable development resource kit that the school division has developed; the New Brunswick working group has developed a green schools web portal for teachers, and is looking into a provincial green school policy.

2. National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations was founded in 1948 to increase contact between young people in Eastern and Western Europe. Today, the National Council is the organization that cooperates with and represents the interests of youth organizations in Sweden. The organization develops young leaders and youth-led organizations, and aims to improve the conditions of young people in Sweden and around the world.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Many of the challenges faced by youth organizations require cooperation and understanding that cross national and cultural borders. The National Council therefore regards the exchange of experience and joint work with youth organizations worldwide as important tasks; it currently has partnerships with youth organizations in many parts of the world. Partner organizations work in a similar way to the National Council in Sweden. They work under different conditions, but share the same goal: to promote the rights and influence of young people. Democracy and human rights with a focus on young people form a natural starting point in all of the organization's joint work.

III. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Building on the strength within Swedish youth-led organizations and partner organizations worldwide, the National Council actively participated in the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Between 2005 and 2008, the National Council participated in the following ECOSOC subsidiary bodies: Commission for Social Development (2007-2008), Commission on the Status of Women (2005) and Commission on Sustainable Development (2005-2008). In these meetings, representatives of the National Council have been actively contributing to the relationship and dialogue between Government delegations and the present youth caucus (or equivalent).

Representatives from the National Council to United Nations bodies and meetings have a clear role in facilitating and coordinating knowledge-sharing and capacity-building on related work among Swedish youth-led organizations. Among the activities the organization hosts every year are a weekend-long global conference, with participants from between 30 and 40 countries discussing, learning and developing ideas on global emerging issues such as security, peace and development.

IV. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

As a part of fulfilling its purpose, the National Council participated in the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005. Since 1999, its representatives have attended the United Nations General Assembly as youth delegates, and advised on resolutions and reports regarding the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Several of the organization's objectives were reached through the work of ECOSOC and other bodies, among them the highlighting of young people's entrepreneurship and the importance of youth-led organizations as providers of leisure and education for sustainable development.

V. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

In June 2005, the National Council together with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, initiated a project called "Tackling poverty together: the role of young people in poverty reduction strategies". The primary motivation for the project was the recognition that, although large numbers of young people are adversely affected by poverty, youth are seldom identified in poverty reduction strategy papers as a target group requiring specific support, interventions and budget outlays. Over time, the project has created a network of collaboration among youth organizations in eight countries: Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Sweden, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Through workshops and long-distance communication, the project has established youth-led "tackling poverty together" country teams in each of these countries. This has generated an inspiring amount of cooperation among youth organizations, both within and between countries. It has enabled the exchange of information and ideas to strengthen the ability of youth organizations to engage in discussions and programmes related to combating poverty. At the local level in participating countries, national and regional offices of several United Nations entities have been involved, such as the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Related to this activity, the Secretary-General designated as the theme of the 2006 observance of International Youth Day "Tackling poverty together: young people and the eradication of poverty". The project will reach its final stage in 2010.

3. Therapy Center for Dependent Individuals

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Aims, purposes and main course of action. The Therapy Center for Dependent Individuals is the largest Greek non-profit, non-governmental organization to specialize in drug-addiction treatment, prevention, research and education. It comprises a nationwide network of more than 90 units throughout Greece, which provide their services free of charge to more than 9,000 people annually, including drug users and their families (an increase of 40 per cent compared with its previous quadrennial report). During the first half of the period under consideration, the Center was one of the main implementation bodies of the 2002-2006 national action plan on drugs until its completion. Since then, KETHEA has been the main non-governmental organization to contribute to the formulation of the new national strategy against drugs. It has taken an active part in the two-year public consultation regarding a new national plan, by submitting well-documented proposals, in line with the basic principles of drug dependence treatment outlined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization (WHO). These include networking and coordination among all treatment services aimed at increasing the availability and accessibility of treatment for drug dependence and at ensuring both a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach and effective referral and continuum of care.

Between 2005 and 2008, the Center expanded significantly its service network, giving priority to regions in the country which continued to lack counselling and drug treatment services. New units were established in nine cities, to cover the needs of northern Greece, central Greece, the north-eastern Aegean islands, the Peloponnese and Crete. At present, the Center counts: (a) 23 counselling centres; (b) 14 counselling support programmes for prisoners; (c) 16 residential and non-residential therapeutic communities; (d) 2 therapeutic communities within prisons; (e) 15 re-entry centres; (f) 21 Family Support Programmes; (g) 2 Reception and re-entry centres for released prisoners; (h) 2 low-threshold programmes and 1 outreach programme; (i) an alcohol and gambling therapeutic programme; (j) an intercultural therapeutic programme for migrants and refugees; (k) 4 transitional schools for members of the therapeutic programmes; and (l) primary prevention, research and professional training departments.

Currently, the Center has 497 employees, most of them working on the "front line" of treatment. In its efforts, the Center receives valuable support from more than 1,000 volunteers.

Furthermore, given the large number of inmates in Greek prisons serving sentences for drug-related offences, special emphasis was placed by the Center on developing addiction treatment within the criminal justice system. The organization pursued a close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, through which it achieved the improvement of the legal framework towards the promotion of treatment as an alternative to incarceration, as well as a provision regarding drug dependence treatment while in prison, and follow-up support and social integration after release.

Nine new counselling support programmes were established by the Center within Greek prisons, in addition to the first therapeutic community for male inmates within the Greek penal system. At this stage, the Center provides services for over 1,500 inmates annually.

During the period under consideration, the Center also expanded its range of activities by setting up the first pilot project in Greece addressing Internet addiction disorders in adolescence, and developed culturally sensitive programmes for immigrants and refugees, with the aim of minimizing cultural and language barriers.

The Center also implemented educational and awareness programmes for the general public aimed at (a) disseminating the concept of drug dependence as a multifactorial and multifaceted yet preventable and treatable problem, (b) improving access to services and (c) fighting stigmatization. In addition, the Center ran primary prevention programmes and activities for the general population and for high-risk groups in various locations and settings. Over 5,000 primary and high school students participate annually in the Center's drug prevention and health education programmes and activities.

In 2005, the Center hosted in Crete the 10th European Conference on Rehabilitation and Drug Policy. There were over 500 participants, including representatives of WHO, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and leading academic personalities in the field of drug abuse treatment. The proceedings of the conference were published in both Greek and English, and are available upon request. Using its vast experience, the Center launched, during the period under consideration, professional educational programmes for prevention and treatment organizations, both in Greece and in neighbouring countries, such as Cyprus, Turkey, Bulgaria and Hungary.

The Center participated in specialized European Union programmes aimed at fighting discrimination and prejudice against former drug users and improving their reintegration into society and the labour market.

The Center, in cooperation with the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities, of which it is a board member, undertook to create the Federation's information system, an electronic database which provides comprehensive and systematic information about methods and services of therapeutic communities at a global level.

KETHEA is a founding member of the European Network on Addictions.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

KETHEA completed and submitted the non-governmental organization questionnaire on drugs and drug-related problems, which was aimed at collecting data from non-governmental organizations for the review of the 1998-2008 twentieth special session of the General Assembly on countering the world drug

problem. A renewed active participation in the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies is among the future plans of the organization.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Until 2003, the Center collaborated with the United Nations information centre in Athens for the launching of the International Narcotics Control Board annual report. Since the closure of that information centre, the Center has fully undertaken the launching of the annual report to the Greek media and general public. Each year the report received wide media coverage. A translation in Greek of the full text of the International Narcotics Control Board press kit, along with the original English text, has been produced in a special booklet at the Center's printing unit. The bilingual press kits for the years 2005-2008 were disseminated by the Center to targeted audiences, including all members of the Greek parliament, treatment and prevention agents and the mass media.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 6, Target 1. Through its outreach programme, which aims at minimizing health risks associated with the use of drugs, the Center distributes 2,500 condoms annually and provides information and counselling on how to minimize health risks associated with the use of drugs.

Moreover, the Center's drop-in centre in Athens has organized on a regular basis open education seminars for drug users aimed at the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Over 400 drug users participated in these seminars during the period under consideration. In addition, two booklets, for female drug users and for pregnant drug users, respectively were, published by the Center in 2008. The booklets contain detailed information concerning the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, as well as information regarding the reduction of additional drug-related risk factors during pregnancy. So far, the booklets have been distributed to more than 1,500 female drug users in Athens.

D. Activities in support of global principles

Each year, the Center's public awareness activities culminate on 26 June, when the Center's units across the country organize open public events on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking. These events are often held in partnership with other public benefit bodies and the local authorities. Overall, these activities received much attention, with a turnout of several thousand people and wide media coverage. For the occasion, the Center organizes every year a nationwide campaign to spread the message of the International Day in the press. The information material is placed free of charge, through the efforts of the Center, in many local and national newspapers. Distribution rates for the period 2005-2008 are as follows: 700,000 leaflets in 2005, 650,000 in 2006, 950,000 in 2007 and 800,000 in 2008.

On the occasion of World AIDS Day every year, the Center's therapeutic programmes, in cooperation with Hellenic Centre for Infectious Diseases Control and other non-governmental organizations, organize campaigns for the general public in Athens. KETHEA also participated in various national forums concerning drugs and the work of the United Nations, such as the forum organized by the Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation following the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

4. World Confederation of Productivity Science

General, 1997

I. Aims and purposes

The sole purpose of the World Confederation of Productivity Science is to promote peace and prosperity through productivity, making a difference and creating new possibilities which will benefit countries and their peoples all over the world. The dedicated volunteers who lead this organization hold a strong belief in the work that the Confederation achieves. Approximately every two years, the Confederation partners with one or more organizations, usually member organizations, hold a world productivity congress. All congresses have encountered great success and have contributed to enriching the attendees, the host organization and the Confederation with knowledge for enhancing productivity, in addition to leaving a legacy of improved productivity in the host country.

Membership: the Confederation is comprised of network partners, fellows of the World Academy of Productivity Science and the International Advisory Council/Board of Directors. No financial contribution is required to be part of the Confederation. The network has expanded in the past years and is now composed of the following 48 countries: Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Zambia.

The network partners represent the driving force of the Confederation in their respective countries. Their general mandate is to increase the awareness of productivity, support the Confederation's mission and objectives and contribute to the Confederation's activities by promoting the world productivity congresses and world productivity assemblies and by sharing information and expertise with other colleagues.

Fellows of the Academy are individuals who have been recognized by the Confederation for their role in creating and applying the arts and sciences of productivity. The Academy has approximately 350 fellows (500 maximum), who are women and men that the Confederation recognizes as leading contributors to the field of productivity science.

The International Advisory Council/Board of Directors is comprised of advisers from a wide range of countries, under the leadership of the Chair of the Confederation, who are involved in promoting the aims of the Confederation and recruiting new members worldwide. They also respond to questions submitted to them by networking partners, fellows and other individuals or agencies. Their appointments are based on their high skills and competence.

Recent accomplishments: the Confederation held its fourteenth World Productivity Congress in Shenyang, China, in 2006. The Confederation held its fifteenth World Productivity Congress in South Africa in 2008. The discussions held during that

gathering led to the adoption of a declaration on sustained productivity improvement.

II. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or Headquarters

In January 2006, the Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact spoke to a meeting of the Confederation.

In 2007, Confederation representatives participated in the Global Compact Leaders Summit in Geneva. They have co-authored a report on the summit, which was published in *Industrial Engineer*, a publication of the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

In September 2007, the Confederation's board of directors passed a resolution renewing its commitment to the Global Compact and approved plans to feature corporations affiliated with the Global Compact at the fifteenth World Productivity Congress.

The Confederation continues to affirm its decision to subscribe to the vision of the Global Compact and participate in its mission. The Confederation believes that many of the actions that affiliated organizations are taking in support of the 10 principles of the Global Compact are complementary to enterprise productivity and thus merit the full support and participation of the Confederation.

5. World LP Gas Association

Special, 1989

I. Introduction

Formerly known as the World LP Gas Forum and founded on 19 June 1987 in Dublin to organize an annual conference and exhibition, the World LP Gas Association has evolved to become the authoritative global voice for LP Gas. With 175 members operating in more than 90 countries, the Association has expanded its activities considerably over the last 20 years to include all the activities expected of an effective global trade association. The goal of the Association is to demonstrate the benefits of LP gas and position it as clean energy for a low-carbon world while creating the environment to develop and sustain LP gas markets, identify and stimulate innovation, promote compliance with health, safety and environmental standards and good business practices and drive communication among all stakeholders.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

2003-2008: The LP Gas Rural Energy Challenge, a public private partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Association, was initiated in late 2002 by UNDP's sustainable energy programme and the World LP Gas Association in direct response to appeals made by the World Summit on Sustainable Development to industry and Government to form partnerships to tackle sustainable development objectives of demonstrating that LP Gas was a vital solution for providing clean, modern energy to rural communities in developing nations and, in doing so, helped to create long-term sustainable development in areas and communities that needed it most. The Challenge has focused on growing the successful projects initiated from seven pilot countries (Honduras, Ghana, Morocco, South Africa, Viet Nam, Turkey and China). In addition, efforts were made by the partners to learn from the first years of operation of the Challenge and to use this information to prepare the next phase of the partnership in the coming years.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conferences of the Parties: the Association continued to represent the LP Gas industry at the series of high-level negotiations taking place under the umbrella of the Framework Convention. In December 2008, the Association was present at the Fourteenth Conference of the Parties, in Poznan, Poland, during which the first steps towards replacing the Kyoto Protocol were finally taken. This two-week series of negotiations was a continuation of the work started in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007 and would culminate in the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

In Poznan, the Association took part in numerous activities designed to carry the message to national representatives and negotiators that LP Gas was an ideal low-carbon fuel that was available around the world immediately and should be considered as part of any national or regional fuel mix. As part of those activities, the Association was an official partner in the Poznan Business Day, which was held

on 9 December and included the participation of numerous key public and private sector representatives. At this event, the audience was reminded that, ultimately, the key to fighting climate change in difficult times would involve looking at all available fuel types and picking the right fuel for the right application.

2007 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York: the Association participated as part of Business Action for Energy, a coalition led by the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Energy Council as a platform for business input into the Commission on Sustainable Development process.

Third Biennial Partnership for Clean Indoor Air Forum, Bangalore, India, 2007: the Association led a workshop on indoor air pollution and its impact on women and children's health.

Fifteenth meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, 2007: the Association participated as part of the Business Action for Energy coalition.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development eleventh Africa Oil and Gas Trade and Finance Conference, Nairobi, 2007: the Association participated as an expert speaker in a number of different sessions and meetings.

Ninth Africa Energy Forum, Hamburg, Germany, 2007: the Association participated as an expert speaker in a number of different sessions and meetings.

Twentieth World LP Gas Forum, October 2007, Cape Town, South Africa: the Association organized a daylong event on how LP gas could fuel development in Africa. Chaired by the Director of the UNDP/United Nations Environment Programme Poverty-Environment Facility, the session looked at issues such as the contribution LP gas could make towards improving the lives of women in Africa, combating the problem of indoor air pollution and replacing many other much more dangerous fuels.

The seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy, Vienna, 2007: the Association participated as an expert speaker in a number of different sessions and meetings.

UNEP Global Business and Industry Dialogue, Paris, 2008: the Association participated as a sponsor and a workshop delegate during this two-day meeting that focused on improving dialogue with the private sector.

6. Yemeni Women Union

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Yemeni Women Union is a national organization. It is the first organization to deal with women's issues. Its main concern is the development of Yemeni women and their leadership abilities in order to become active members in the development process.

The Union is one of the most important organizations that deal with women's affairs and issues. It aims to guide women towards development, progress and democracy.

The Union is the main umbrella for the thematic work group of the civil society organizations that work with the Government in implementing and monitoring the poverty reduction developmental plans and strategies and also participate in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Union was able to create relationships with Government, civil society, the private sector and local and international donors who are partners in continuing the development and democracy process. The Union is increasingly becoming a centre of interest. Recently, it became a member in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and participated in the Human Rights Committee in Geneva. It is also an active member of the Higher Council of Motherhood and Childhood, a member in the Higher Council of Women, a consultant for the Ministry of Human Rights, a member of the Arabic Network for Literacy and Adult Education in Egypt, and a member of the executive office of the Arab Family Organization in Tunisia. The Union has worked on widening its women's grass-roots movement by opening 21 main branches and 175 women's activities centres throughout villages, districts and governorates of Yemen. Now, the Union has over 675,000 female members. It also works on creating income-generating projects with the support of the Social Fund for Development and other donors. To activate its projects, the Union has worked on completing its staff capacity-building, starting with the members of the executive office all the way to the staff of its activity centres, in order to raise leadership, financial, administrative, and organizational capacity to face future changes and challenges.

The Union offers social services run by volunteers for all women, such as legal protection, social counselling, health awareness, lobbying for girls' education, illiteracy programmes and life skills programmes. The Union also trains and qualifies its women leadership staff and aspires to empower them economically, politically, socially and culturally.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Participated in the fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (2006 and 2007).

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Yemeni Women Union is cooperating with many international organizations in implementing many projects. These projects have been undertaken by the Union in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals. They include:

Goal 1, Target 2 (with Cooperazione Internazionale, GTZ and CARE International in Yemen): (a) training rural women and empowering them to manage income-generating projects; (b) implementing the poverty reduction strategy; (c) improving the income of poor families — 30,000 families and individuals were targeted for the project; (d) creating businesswomen and registering them with the chamber of commerce; and (e) increasing the number of income-generating projects for families and individuals.

Goal 2, Target 3 (with UNICEF): (a) the programme is a part of the Union's strategy to advocate for girls' education; (b) animated movies to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education; (c) raising awareness about the importance of girls' education with the cooperation of religious leaders, imams and local councils; (d) raising the level of awareness among the local society about the importance of girls' education; (e) improving the teaching staff and activating the role of local media to raise community awareness about the importance of girls' education; (f) providing the necessary educational equipment for girls in rural areas; (g) raising the level of qualification for women and girls in the field of computers and language; (h) increasing job opportunities for women working in the field of technology; (i) participating in eliminating technological illiteracy among women; (j) providing female teachers for these classes, with the coordination of the Ministry of Education; (k) training workshops for teachers; and (l) expanding the literacy programme and developing life skills for rural women.

Goal 3, Target 4: (a) empowering women politically and institutional capacity-building for women leadership (with UNDP, the British Embassy, CARE International and Club de Madrid); (b) holding a workshop and discussion circles about women's political rights; (c) raising awareness about legislation; (d) training and qualifying women for the 2010 parliamentary elections; (e) raising the awareness of women and political parties about the importance of women's participation in political parties.

Central training sessions for women leadership in the fields of: (a) strategic planning; (b) volunteerism; (c) social development; (d) gender issues and leadership; (e) managing small projects; (f) conflict resolution; (g) monitoring, follow-up and evaluation; (h) bookkeeping and financial management; (i) sessions

to train the trainers; (j) increasing the number of women in decision-making positions; (k) improving the development process in Yemen; and (l) improving institutional leadership of civil society.

Goal 4, Target 5: (a) raising awareness about birth spacing; (b) raising awareness about the danger of female genital mutilation; and (c) holding a workshop and discussion circles about the importance of breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Goal 5, Target 6: (with UNFPA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United States Agency for International Development): (a) training workers in the health field; (b) training midwives in rural areas; (c) distributing hygiene and sanitation kits for women affected by the local conflict; (d) health-awareness programmes about sexually transmitted diseases, the dangers of early marriage and reproductive health; and (e) raising awareness about reproductive health in emergency cases.

Goal 6, Target 7: (a) raising awareness about health protection and AIDS education; and (b) training of trainers for raising awareness.

C. Activities in support of global principles

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March of every year by the Yemeni Women Union. On that day, the Union holds its main meeting, and its leaders present their remarks and report on implemented activities for the previous year. Labour Day is celebrated on 1 May of every year by the Union. On this occasion, the Union celebrates by holding cultural ceremonies and seminars, and the Chair of the Union makes a statement honouring women workers. Children's day is celebrated on 1 June by the organization. On this occasion, the Union celebrates by visiting hospitalized children and providing them with presents. This is done in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood. The world appeal for reducing poverty is celebrated on 17 October by the organization. On this occasion, the Union issues an appeal to reduce poverty in Yemen in cooperation with Governmental and non-governmental organizations.